## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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HISTORIC	Immaculata Hi	gh School		
AND/OR COMMON				
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#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Immaculata High School is located on the northeast corner of Marine Drive and Irving Park Road. The plan of the corner portion is rectangular. Two wings extend from it to the north and west, each being set back from the line of the corner block. The main entrance faces Irving Park Road, where the west wing joins the main block. There is a secondary entrance on Marine Drive.

The walls are a brown tapestry brick with limestone trim. The roof is red tile with copper-clad dormers. The major decorative acconts are the pointed windows, angular dormers and sculptural treatment of the main entrance. In fact, because of the westward extension of the west wing in the 1950's, this entrance is used only for ceremonial purposes, a new main entrance having been built into the extension. Above the original entrance there is a large statue of the Virgin by sculptor Alfonso Iannelli. Two bronze lamps, 🐇 of which one remains, originally illuminated the statue.

The building has four floors with classrooms situated on both sides of the central corridors. Where these corridors meet at the entrance on Marine Drive, there is a wide staircase. rectangular part of the building on the corner there is an auditorium on the ground floor and above it, a large gymnasium. In the attic of the north wing there is a large lunchroom. Below it, on the ground floor, there is the library. The most elaborately decorated space is the auditorium where there is much architectural decoration of an Art Deco kind.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Significance

The school is of considerable importance because it is an early work of Barry Byrne, one of Frank Lloyd Wright's four best known students (the others were Griffin, Drummond, and Van Bergen).

Works of the twenties by Byrne are rare and this is the only school by him in the Chicago area. Its anticipation of later Art Deco architecture is also notable, as is the sculptural decoration by Chicago's Well known . sculptor, Alfonso Iannelli.

### History

The school was designed and built in 1921-1922 by the architect Barry Byrne for the Sisters of the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was one of Byrne's first commissions after the first World War and is carried out in his modern style of the 1920's, a style quite different from his Prairie work of the pre-war years.

It was Byrne's Irish Catholic background that got him his job, as well as many other churches, convents, rectories, and schools for the Catholic orders and Diocese in Chicago and elsewhere. One of his largest works for the Church was Cork Cathedral in Ireland.

Born in Chicago in 1883, Byrne trained from 1902 to 1908 with Frank Lloyd Wright in the Oak Park studio. After that he worked with and in partnership with a former Wright draftsman, Andrew Willatzen, in Seattle, until 1913. He returned to Chicago the following year to take charge of Walter Griffin's American practice so that Griffin could go to Australia to work on Canberra. After World War I Byrne opened his own independent practice.

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